

THE AMARANTH FLEA-BEETLE.

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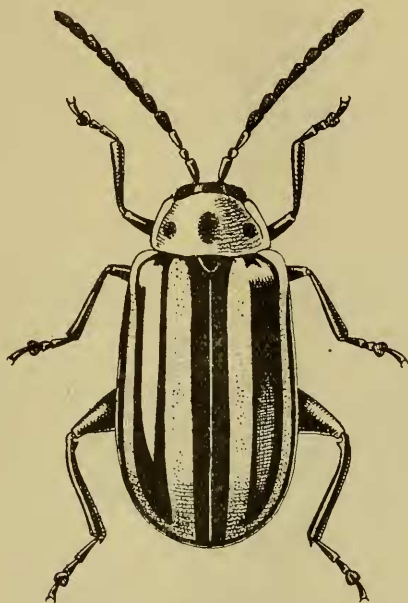


FIG. 1. The amaranth flea-beetle (*Disonycha glabrata*) about 13 times natural size. Original.

Injury by the halictine *Disonycha glabrata* Fab. to the leaves of ornamental amaranth, including *Amaranthus caudatus*, *tricolor*, *cruentatus*, *celosia*, and *plumosa*, has been observed by the writer on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., nearly every year since September, 1907, when the beetles were seen during the last days of that month in numbers on the foliage. At that time the beetles were soft, showing that they had recently matured. In the earth about the roots a number of larvae were located, mostly about an inch below the surface. Leaves of many plants were badly "ragged" in the same manner that we see the wild amaranth attacked by this flea-beetle during the summer. Some beds were completely ruined.

During July and August the beetles are abundant about the District of Columbia, and their habit of feeding both in the larval and adult stages on species of *Amaranthus*, particularly *retroflexus*, is well known.

The writer has frequently noticed that when the beetles are frightened away from their food plant they quickly return, often to the individual plant upon which they were feeding. Individual beetles, when only slightly disturbed, fly up and circle directly back to the same plant.



FIG. 2. Larvae of *Disonycha glabrata* on *Amaranthus spinosus*.

The habits and transformations of this insect were described by Professor Hy. Garman in 1891.¹

The distribution accorded by Horn² reads, "occurs from Georgia to Arizona." It is common in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and ranges southward to Florida and westward through the Gulf region to Texas, as far south as Brownsville. It is also abundant in Kentucky and Indiana.

Agelena naevia Henz., a common species of spider, was observed with several individuals of this flea-beetle in its webs October 13.

Dolichopodidae (Dipt.) from the Source of the Hudson River, N. Y.—In the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, LXI, No. 25, 1922, p. 14, Mr. J. A. Aldrich describes *Dolichopus abruptus* from a male specimen taken at "Lake Tear, Essex County, New York. Collector unknown." It may be of interest to state that this insect was collected by me during the latter part of July, 1920, while a guest of Mr. Howard Notman in the Adirondacks. Lake Tear, situated at about 4,300 ft. altitude on the western slope of the notch between Mt. Marcy and Mt. Skylight, is regarded as the source of the Hudson River. Many interesting flies were obtained in that locality. Among the Dolichopodidae collected; in addition to the new species mentioned above, Mr. C. Van Duzee has kindly identified the following: *Dolichopus dorycerus* Loew, *D. stenhammari* Zetterstedt, *D. flavilacertus* Aldrich, Van Duzee and Greene, *D. discifer* Stannius, *D. harbecki* Aldrich, Van Duzee and Greene, *D. variabilis* Loew, *Hydrophorus chrysologus* Walker, and two apparently undescribed species of *Porphyrops*.—J. BEQUAERT.

David Sharp, F.R.S., formerly curator of the Museum of Zoölogy at the University of Cambridge and editor of the *Zoölogical Record*, died on August 27, at the age of eighty-one years.—*Science*.

¹ Agric. Science, Vol. V, pp. 143-145.

² Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., Vol. XVI, p. 207, 1889.